

from forming a habit which may destroy him, and this through the unconscious agency of the man in whom he has trusted his life and his health—his physician. Probably the number of cases in which the individual has formed the habit of taking some narcotic drug through the original agency of a physician's prescription, is very small; but even granted that this is the case, should there be *any* such? Does it not seem probable that the possible danger can be entirely removed in one of the ways suggested? Let us urge the pharmacist to undertake some one of these plans, and then let us do our duty and support him when the issue comes between himself and the patient. We are certainly failing of our full duty if we do not do everything possible to protect the patient from himself.

It is indeed a pleasant task to record the birth of another child to the family of state journals. Slowly but surely the family is getting **ANOTHER JOURNAL** larger, and as the years pass, it is getting more than proportionately stronger. The newest member is the *West Virginia Medical Journal*, owned and published by the West Virginia State Medical Association. The first number bears date of August, and from it we learn that the journal is to be issued bi-monthly, at least for the first year. It is under the editorial charge of Dr. S. L. Jepson, of Wheeling, and the appearance of the first number is indeed highly creditable. It is well gotten up, well printed, brightly edited, and its advertising pages are clean. We most sincerely wish the *West Virginia Medical Journal* every possible success and every good wish. We would make but one suggestion—and this will apply to all state organizations publishing journals which have not yet adopted the plan: Combine the office of Secretary of the state organization and editor of the journal in the same individual. This has been done in a few of the states and we feel quite sure that the editors in the states where it is not the case will agree with those where it is the custom, that much time and bother are saved by the simple combination. The arrangement centralizes the work of the society, lessens the amount of red tape, and helps every member of the society—for he knows that all his communications and queries go to one place.

The proper minimum fee for an examination for life insurance is demanding more and more space in the medical journals. It is also receiving the attention of state medical organizations, and county medical societies in all parts of the country are talking the matter over; some of them are acting, too. At the last meeting of the Minnesota State Medical Association, rather strong resolutions were adopted, and in discussing these and the whole question generally, the *Northwestern Lancet* has some rather pertinent things to say.

"Several of the prominent men throughout the state have written the companies for which they previously made examina-

tions, resigning their office unless the minimum fee was made \$5.00. In the majority of cases the resignations have been promptly accepted and other men appointed to fill the vacancy. A man who has the courage to stand by his principles by supporting a general resolution [of the Association] and resigning his place as examiner is too valuable a man for the company to lose, and the company which accepts such a resignation is not a safe company to insure in. The man who openly accepts an appointment as examiner for such a company after reading the resolution adopted by his state organization is disloyal to himself and his fellow men. He virtually forfeits his membership in every medical society of which he has been a member."

It is, we are sorry to say, quite true that some men will claim to abide by the resolution of their society and yet will continue to do cut-rate work for \$3.00 fees—secretly. Are not these men a menace to the company for which they work? If they will be dishonest to themselves and their fellows and to their profession, for the small sum of \$2.00, is it not likely that they may be induced to be dishonest in the matter of passing doubtful risks—if the reward is tendered them? Any man who will be dishonest about a little thing of that sort, you may be sure will be dishonest in other and more important things. And yet, doubtless, some of the medical examiners or directors are chuckling to themselves to think how they are fooling the county society and its resolutions, and how some members of the society are doing their work and at their own price. Any ordinary business man may not hesitate to make "presents" in order to get information of benefit in his business; but he does not place much confidence in the honesty of the informer or give him a position of trust.

Some time ago the *Journal of the A. M. A.* published a statement to the effect that most proprietaries, no matter how exclusively **PROPRIETARY** they may have been presented to **PROSTITUTION** the medical profession at first, eventually became "patent" medicines, in the sense that they were later advertised directly to the public and encouraged self-medication. A very forcible example of just that very progress from the doctor and the medical journal to the general public and the lay publication has recently been furnished. Some few years ago Mr. Alpers, one of the leading pharmacists of New York, became interested in guaiacol preparations and derivatives and produced a substance which he called "triacol" (Alpers). It was presented to the medical profession, and, we believe, found to have some merit. Doubtless it was sent around and a number of physicians "sampled." Doubtless, too, a number of hospitals received supplies of it and used it. It was advertised in some of the larger medical journals and was apparently, a perfectly ethical prepara-